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Funny bunnies
Inga Russell sports a couple of new hats while playing a dress-up relay game during the Jack Rabbit Nordic ski program Fun Day held at Glebe Park on Saturday, Feb. 24. The eight-week porgram came to a close with different stations of games for participants to play before bidding goodbye to the snow. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Dysart releases 2023 waste management study

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

Dysart residents care about what they consume and where it's going.

It's evident the municipality's innovative waste management programs are doing the trick.

With only two of Dysart's five landfills "active", it's more important than ever to divert waste wherever we can, says the-municipality's environmental manager John Watson.

Even though the programs have proved successful, there's always room for improvement.

With the Haliburton, Kennisis Lake, and West Guilford at their limit for garbage, all non-recyclable waste is taken to an Environmental Centre in Waterford.

To help understand what's being thrown away and when, three-season waste composition studies began in 2022.

They analyze what types of materials are going into the garbage shipping containers and how much of each type of item.

From Dysart's 2023 three-season waste composition studies:

- 3.75 per cent of the garbage were papers (boxboard, printed paper, cardboard, paper beverage cups) that should be going into Recycling for Papers

- 4.1 per cent of the garbage was containers (aluminum foil and trays, glass food jars, soap bottles) that should be going into Recycling for Containers

- In the Recycling for Papers, some of the top contaminates included tissues/paper towel, and food. Those items should go in the garbage

- In the Recycling for Containers, some of the top contaminates include

see DYSART page 4

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Saturday shuffle

Snowmobilers beam while driving through town for the 44th annual West Guilford Snow Shuffle poker run, dinner, and dance held at the West Guilford Community Centre on Saturday, Feb. 24. The ride was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and riders could choose to stay for a delicious lunch and dinner followed by dancing DJed by Sassy Sandra. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

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HE OKs money to begin asset management update

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Consultants will begin work to update Highlands East's asset management plan before the municipal budget has been finalized.

Council allowed pre-approval to allow PSD Citywide to begin legislated updates to the plan. The money will be part of the 2024 municipal capital and operating budget when it is finalized.

The money was included in capital forecasting and the draft preliminary budget.

The project's budget is about $55,000.

Brittany McCaw, the municipality's treasurer and CAO, asked council to green-light money to allow work to begin to update the township's asset management plan.

The plan is to be updated this year and there's more work to be done in 2025, she said.

The work to be completed by PSD Citywide will include levels of services for all assets, performance of each asset category, lifecycle activities as well as proposed levels of service, explanation of proposed levels of service, proposed performance of asset categories and lifecycle management and financial strategy in order to comply with the 2024 and 2025 requirements of asset management plan development.

PSD Citywide will work with the Finance Department staff and department heads to leverage existing knowledge, understand current practices, and review insights.

"There is a large workload associated with this project to meet the legislated timelines," McCaw said. "And so the pre-approval will just assist Finance staff to commence the project in a timely manner and allow for resources to be allocated appropriately."

Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall asked if council will be able to know what's been reviewed and the status of certain things after the asset management plan is completed.

"Because I don't remember hearing a lot of information on that in the past," Ryall said.

"We can certainly bring forward any sort of updates on the plan at council's discretion," McCaw said.

Kinder registration now open

Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) has opened registration for students starting Kindergarten in September 2024.

TLDSB offers both junior and senior Kindergarten programs, where our youngest students develop a strong foundation for learning in all areas.

At this stage, students grow through play-based learning and small group instruction with caring educators. Students will learn about language and math, engage in healthy physical activities and the arts, and develop socially and emotionally through interaction with their peers and educators who guide them.

Parents/guardians of children who are turning four in 2024 are encouraged to visit the Kindergarten Registration page on tldsb.ca to register their child(ren) and learn more about the programs. To find out which elementary school your child(ren) will attend based on the home address, use the School Locator. All contact information for our elementary schools can be found on the Board Directory.

September may seem like a far way away, but it's important for TLDSB to know how many students are enrolled so that staffing and spaces for the upcoming school year can be made. TLDSB asks all parents/guardians to register their child(ren) by March 31.

If you have further questions, contact your child(ren)'s local elementary school.

Submitted

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Dysart needs to reduce organic waste, says manager

from page 1

plastic film, tissues/paper towel, and food. Those items should go in the garbage

"The really interesting thing from the waste audit in 2023 has to do with the amount of organics or food waste in the garbage. That really makes a case for the importance of composting to divert that waste away from the landfill," Watson said.

He said 34.5 per cent of Dysart's garbage was food waste and organics.

"If you could take that much material out of the garbage, that's going to really reduce the amount of garbage that needs to be disposed of in the landfill, so things like a composer, FoodCycler, or another organics option would be really helpful to reduce the waste that we have," he said.

FoodCycler pilot projects have been held in Dysart, Minden, Algonquin Highlands, and the county as a whole.

"That's 800 units in the county that people are using, and there was money put aside in the county budget this year to do another pilot of 500 homes, so there's the opportunity for that to continue," he said.

Watson said Dysart will be restocking composters and digesters in the spring.

Blue Box program

The Blue Box program is a province wide mandate that started in July 2023 and will continue to 2025.

The program is meant to hold producers accountable and responsible for the end of life of their materials.

Blue Box materials include those composed of plastic, glass, metal, paper, or a combination.

"Dysart transitioned to the new Blue Box regulation on January 1 of this year. In that agreement that we have with Circular Materials, which is the management that oversees the implementation of that regulation, they collect the Blue Box materials from our five sites and then process that recycling," Watson said.

Textile and electronic recycling programs

The municipality brought in a new way to handle textile waste in 2022.

Textiles can be dropped off at the purple bins at any of Dysart's five landfill sites washed and placed in clear plastic bags to be recycled.

"It's been so successful. It's amazing to think we collected 20 metric tonnes of textiles in 2023, and to see it all being reused or recycled is fantastic," Watson said.

The program's operated by Cornerstone to Recovery, a not-for-profit that supports people experiencing addiction and mental illness.

"I think we'll see as we come into 2024 collecting even more textiles in those bins as people learn about the program. It's a great way of keeping that stuff out of the landfill."

Acceptable items are clothing, hats, scarves, ties, jackets, coats, belts, shoes, jewelry, purses, backpacks, bedding, blankets, curtains, fabric, pillows, sleeping bags, and towels.

Additionally, all five of Dysart's landfills have an area for electronic waste.

Thirty-seven metric tonnes of electronics were collected in Dysart in 2023.

Hazardous Waste Days

At Dysart's regular council meeting on Feb. 27, the county's Hazardous Waste drop-off days were announced. Residents can bring in items like car batteries, gasoline, paint, pesticides, and used motor oil to be properly disposed of.

John Watson, environmental manager of the Municipality of Dysart et al, places a donation bag of textiles into one of the textile recycling bins at the Haliburton landfill. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Dysart's scheduled Household Hazardous Waste Days in 2024 are:

Saturday, July 27 at Haliburton Landfill (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Saturday, August 10, at Harcourt Landfill (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Saturday, September 14 at West Guilford Landfill (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Dysart residents are also able to attend Highlands East, Minden Hills, and Algonquin Highlands Hazardous Waste Days:

Saturday, May 4 - Highlands East

Saturday, May 18 - Minden Hills

Saturday, June 8, 2024 - Algonquin Highlands

Saturday, July 6 - Minden Hills

Saturday, July 6 - Highlands East

Saturday, August 24 - Minden Hills

Saturday, August 24 - Algonquin Highlands

Saturday, September 14 - Algonquin Highlands

Saturday, September 28 - Highlands East

Saturday, October 19 - Algonquin Highlands

Recycling lighting materials

A new regulation requires municipalities to manage the recycling of lighting materials.

"In the past, we used to do recycling of compact fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Hazardous Waste Days, but with this new regulation, it's going to include all types of lighting," Watson said.

"We will have that option at three of our landfills - Haliburton, Harcourt, and West Guilford."

Residents will be able to drop off all their bulbs and tubes at no cost, and all material will be collected and recycled.

For the full waste management summary, visit the minutes from Tuesday's council meeting dysartetal.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=3809.

"Sometimes we can get a little complacent when sorting our recycling, so definitely think before you throw. Make sure it's something that can go into our recycling bins, and if you're not sure, visit our website or Waste Wizard app."

Dysart's Waste Wizard can be found here: www.dysartetal.ca/en/living-in-our-community/waste-wizard.aspx.

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Health coalition says province starves public hospitals

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Allowing some medical procedures to be done at private facilities starves public hospitals, says the Ontario Health Coalition.

A new report, entitled Robbing from the public to build the private: The Ford government's hospital privatization scheme, reveals that local hospitals in every region of Ontario have operating rooms sitting idle the majority of the time.

The public has funded local hospitals for more than 70 years to build operating room capacity that is unused while the Ford government is shunting unprecedented public money to private for-profit clinics and hospitals to build new operating rooms, the coalition reports.

In early 2023, the provincial government passed legislation to allow more private clinics to offer certain publicly funded surgeries and procedures. Premier Doug Ford said at the times that it was an effort to cut long wait lists for care. Procedures opened up to private facilities include cataract surgeries, diagnostic imaging and testing, and hip and knee replacement surgeries.

Government said at the time that the move was to address a backlog of those procedures.

For the last year, the coalition researched the unused capacity in local public hospitals through Freedom of Information requests and interviews with surgical staff.

Natalie Mehra, the group's executive director, said they gathered figures from Ontario government budget and expense documents, media reports, contracts, and accountability agreements to provide a litany of examples of much higher costs and large funding increases provided by the Ford government to for-profit corporation clinics, hospitals, and staffing agencies.

"At the same time, the government has imposed dollar cuts, deficits, and wage caps on public hospitals, robbing them of the ability to attract and retain staff and use their existing operating room capacity," she said.

Alexandria, Brockville, Cambridge, Hawkesbury, Kitchener, London, North Bay, Oakville, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Catharines, Southampton, and Wiarton are communities that have functional operating rooms that are unused.

Hospitals in Alliston, Almonte, Barrie, Bowmanville, Carleton Place, Collingwood, Cornwall, Kingston, Meaford, Nepean, Niagara Falls, Orillia, Oshawa, Ottawa, Pembroke, Peterborough, Toronto, and Welland have operating rooms that are closed the majority of the time.

Their closed either late afternoons, evenings, overnight and/or on weekends.

Mehra said Queen's Park has imposed real dollar cuts on public hospitals, pushing them into service closures and deficits, while funding for-profit hospitals and clinics with increases up to and over 300%. Ontario funds its public hospitals at the lowest rate of all provinces.

The province has funded private for-profit hospitals at double the rate per surgery than it funds public hospitals and has funded private for-profit ophthalmology clinics across Ontario at 21 per cent to 56 per cent more for each cataract surgery.

She said the coalition has found that government has refused to act on the for-profit staffing agencies that are charging up to three times more than public hospitals for staff, having escalated their prices by more than 70 per cent since Ford took office, while imposing wage caps and real dollar cuts on public hospital staff.

The health care budget has been underspent, shunting billions to contingency fund and budget surplus, while leaving hospitals in unprecedented crisis, Mehra said.

"Hundreds of millions of dollars in public money is being used to dismantle and privatize our public hospitals, robbing the public to build the private," she said. "A few for-profit corporations are being enriched by the Ford government's privatization scheme while our public hospitals and patients pay the price.

"It is beyond time that there is a rigorous investigation into who is benefitting from these policy choices and what their connections are to this government because the costs and threats to our local public hospitals and the future of our single-tier public health system are very real and urgent."

Cultivating joy: The solution to the LTC crisis

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Lurking in the shadows of crises in Canada are long-term care homes.

During the Aging Together as Community's conference last month, Dr. Pat Armstrong, professor of sociology at the University of Toronto, spoke about her involvement in research of long-term care homes across the globe.

Canada, in comparison with other countries, is on the bottom rung of places with desireable care.

LTC homes can no longer be out of sight, out of mind, she says.

"Our purpose is to put life into years, not years into life," Armstrong said. "Our goal is to understand that care is a relationship, a relationship that can bring joy to everyone involved in long-term care."

This joy is dependent on the working and living conditions of a care home.

"We argue that joy is possible when people have a sense of belonging; when they have the opportunity for purpose and meaning," Armstrong said.

And to get there, her team spent 10 years researching the successes and downfalls of long-term care homes in Norway, Sweden, the UK, the US, Germany, and Canada.

One of the main ways they conducted research was to send teams into government-regulated homes for a week at a time.

"Each team was multidisciplinary," she said. "We would interview, observe, and then get together and talk about what we saw and what we heard."

They talked to everyone: Those who did laundry, housekeeping, dietary work, those who provide direct care, residents, their families.

"We were looking for what we call ideas worth sharing, because we're convinced there is no single right way," Armstrong said.

Proper care depends on the residents, their health, the location of the home, and available social services.

The first idea she shared was a new way of seeing LTC.

"We know long-term care doesn't have a good reputation in Canada. It is often seen as a last and worst resort. But, family members in Germany and Sweden did not feel guilty like they do here. A study showed that Swedish people over 65 would prefer to go into nursing homes if they needed help with more than two daily living activities," Armstrong said. "That's certainly not the case here.

She highlighted what's worthwhile to keep in our current system.

The first is company.

"We know that isolation kills. The Ontario Science Table found that even if they had less complex care needs, those with less family and friends were more likely to die."

The second is safety.

"One example was a woman who said she was insulin dependent, had a stroke, and couldn't remember to take it on her own."

The third are activities.

"They're much less likely to sit and watch TV all day with activities."

The fourth is lack of chores.

"Many residents were happy someone else takes care of meals, cleans the bathroom, and washes the sheets."

Next came what needs to change.

"Of course staffing is the first thing that comes to everyone's mind."

Staffing levels in LTC in Sweden are twice as high as Canada.

With that many people, staff are able to take extra time to complete tasks.

"They can take time with the residents and their families to know what makes them laugh. They can take the time to help residents walk rather than putting them in wheelchairs," Armstrong said. "When staff have the time, family members do not need to fill major gaps, which is what's happening here."

Of course, job security and continuity are needed for all staff members. Simply adding more wouldn't be effective.

"In Ontario, over half of long-term care staff are part-time, and a growing number of staff are from temporary help agencies," Armstrong said.

She said a sense of security and belonging is as important to staff and families as it is to residents.

"It takes more than numbers. To support continuity, staff need full-time employment opportunities and decent wages so that they are encouraged to stay. And it takes more than numbers and wages to create the conditions for joy. The staff need to have the training, which means recognizing the value of the skills required. Too often, the skills are dismissed as something anyone could do," Armstrong said.

She said it takes skills to feed, dress, bathe and calm down residents depending on their needs.

"Skill recognition and training are only one aspect of responding to residents as individuals. Staff need the right to act on their own knowledge based on individual needs and preferences."

Which brought her to rules and regulations surrounding LTC homes in Canada.

"They can limit the staff's ability to act on the basis of their skills. Staff are required to spend more and more time reporting on and counting what they do in ways that not only take time away from care, but also limit their ability to respond to individual preferences," she explained.

> ***"Our purpose is to put life into years, not years into life. Our goal is to understand that care is a relationship that can bring joy to everyone involved in long-term care."***
>
> — Dr. Pat Armstrong

Most scandals occur in for-profit long-term care facilities. The response was to introduce more regulations, like counting bowel movements and how many glasses of water that have been drunk."

She highlighted a quote said by Albert Einstein himself, "Not everything we can count counts, and not everything that counts can be counted."

"Try counting joy," Armstrong said.

Adding on to better situations for staff in these homes, she said teamwork is a source of accountability.

"In a Norwegian home, staff coming off their shift had coffee with staff starting their shift to talk about specific residents and to share strategies about how to respond to those," she said.

Another Norwegian home trained staff to integrate music into everyday life. When residents came into the home, staff made a copy of their favourite music. The list would be posted above their beds, and staff could play one of their favourite songs as they began bed care.

"This home also had a choir made up primarily of people who otherwise didn't speak," she said.

Her last point was the importance of the location and accessibility of facilities.

"Residents want to be part of the community where they can bring the outside in and the inside out," she said.

She summed up her presentation with one final perspective.

"Life without risk is boring. The focus on years into life rather than life into years is a focus on risk avoidance." Armstrong said. "We need to start saying, 'How far can they go?' Assume that they can rather than they can't. We have to dare to dream."

points of view

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A snowy young buck. By Tammy Nash

Editorial

Emphasis on care

vivian collings

LONG-TERM care - where did we go wrong?

How do we fix a system so deep in crisis?

The short answer: adequate funding, staffing, and training.

The long answer? Lots of creativity, which means a desire to build opportunities for joy wherever possible. We have to care about every single person involved in a long-term care home, from the residents to their families, care workers to housekeepers.

Of course, there's no space for creativity where there's no funding.

There's hardly enough space for bare bone essentials like helping residents to walk, bathe, or eat properly.

According to Dr. Pat Armstrong, many European countries have the right idea.

People in places like Sweden and Denmark actually want to live in long-term care homes.

But here, families opt to keep loved ones out of LTC for as long as possible.

We all know about the conditions.

We face staffing shortages at a critical level.

Part-time work, low wages, and limited benefits are to blame.

Like many, I've unfortunately seen the detrimental effects of this first-hand with a loved one.

We didn't want our family member in a care home. We saw limited staff struggling to keep up with the care of dozens of people needing one-on-one support.

We knew our family member was upset to be there.

The scariest part was feeling like it was our only option.

They couldn't be at home. Waitlists for other homes were in the hundreds. And would another place down the road have been better anyway? Or worse?

It's a reality so many are facing.

And the process of deterioration of an already-crumbling system was exacerbated by a three-year-long global health crisis.

During the pandemic, 81.1 per cent of all COVID-19 deaths in Canada were in long-term care homes.

That's higher than any other country according to the Canadian Institute of Health Information.

Investigators learned many more deaths occurred due to neglect, not at the fault of workers, but a broken system.

Ten per cent of all Canadian COVID-19 infections were long-term care staff members due to being forced to work with what they had, and who they had.

When spending small fortunes to live in these facilities, where's the care that's been promised?

It lies within the funding we don't have, I guess.

Staff are doing everything they can with what they've been given.

I can't imagine being in their shoes.

It's no wonder thousands left their jobs with no replacements to follow.

The situation is chilling.

A silver lining was offered by Armstrong, though.

Proper, adequate care in long-term care facilities is possible, and we know this thanks to the first-hand accounts from researchers in other countries.

But again, how do we pull ourselves out of our well?

It starts with caring about care.

I care, and you care. We know it'll be us or someone we love there someday.

We need changemakers to care, too.

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Our road

Down

sharon lynch

The competition

HELEN WOKE with a start. It was so quiet. Usually there was some road traffic past her house in the morning. And if the wind was right the highway noise could even be heard.

She looked out the bedroom window and all she saw was white. The world had come to a stop. Nature had a way of flexing her muscles, Helen thought as she headed downstairs for that crucial first cup of coffee. While she loved the beauty of the winter wonderland, she also had to think about dealing with all that snow. Sitting down with her mug by the fire, she contemplated her next move.

Then she heard the roar of a motor out by her driveway. Stan her neighbour had just showed up with his snowblower and was already hard at work. As Helen was about to open the door and wave her thanks, another raucous sound began on the other side of the house by the woodshed. Puzzled, she looked out the window and there was Jim from down the road, already clearing a path to her firewood.

Helen wondered if each man realized the other was at work on the opposite side. A plethora of kindness is always to be found in my neighbourhood, she thought to herself with a warm feeling. Nothing for her to do but sit and enjoy the rest of her coffee.

Since she didn't have to worry about snow removal, she took her mug over by the patio doors and looked out. It really was beautiful. The sun had emerged from behind a bank of post-dawn clouds casting pink and gold along the tree line. The blue jays were already out in force at the feeders but they were out-gunned by the chickadees and finches. It will be interesting when Stan and Jim meet on the pathway to the compost bin, Helen thought with a smile. She didn't think each realized the other was there.

Ever since moving into the little house on the sideroad, Helen had been aware of a competition for her attention from these two guys. Both were bachelors, probably more by circumstance than anything else. And both had in turn showed up at her door that first week, offering help with small jobs and a friendly attitude. At the time she had noted that while her finances were limited, she could also pay in baking. In particular, her butter tarts were known to be prize-winners. The response to this statement was instant grins and some lip-smacking.

Then it happened. Stan came around the corner of the house just as Jim was clearing the rest of the way near the compost. Both men stopped, looked at each other and nodded a greeting. Then back to work. Now it seemed like a race to see who could reach the compost first. That was the last bit to clear and Helen knew they'd be looking for a reward of some kind.

Snowblowers are a wonderful invention. Helen couldn't imagine trying to clear all that snow with a shovel or scoop. But that's what people used to do, unless they had a plough of some sort. As she contemplated this, she realized her neighbours had finished the work and had both arrived at the back door. They looked hopeful.

Stan was short and stocky with bright blue eyes and very little hair under his baseball cap. The opposite was Jim. Tall and lean, he looked a bit like a heron with his heavy coat perched above long, skinny legs.

Helen made a big fuss over both men, offering fresh coffee and something to recharge their energy. Smiles appeared. Jim asked if by chance she had done any baking lately. Only some butter tarts, came her reply. Again, eyes lit up.

Once settled at the kitchen table with food and drink in front of them, the three discussed the winter weather to date. Although Helen had not yet had breakfast, she couldn't resist reaching for a tart. After everyone had taken theirs, one lonely tart remained. Helen wondered how the guys would deal with this. Then Stan suggested he and Jim arm wrestle for the last tart. Helen volunteered to be referee.

points of view

Waterworks

steve galea

Loon Tales

EVERYONE EXPERIENCES the occasional misunderstanding – and, sadly, I'm no different.

A good example of this happened early last week at breakfast. That's when I walked into the kitchen and Jenn said, "The oatmeal is on the table. Grab your own berries…"

There's no need to go into details, but I'm pretty sure, she's going to provide clearer instructions next time.

You'd think that would be the worst of it. Unfortunately, later in the week, I had perhaps an even more embarrassing incident.

We invited our flooring guy over to give us an estimate on replacing the old linoleum in our main level washroom.

He offered advice on materials and insight on what needed to be done, his availability, and so forth.

It was straight forward, and I thought I was going to get away without anything embarrassing happening.

That's when, I suddenly realized that, for no reason at all, my eyes were watering.

Soon, I was blinking double time and fighting to hold back a few tears that welled up in the corner of my eyes.

It was just like day six at a hunt camp that has no shower.

But I wasn't at a hunt camp. Instead, I was just standing there, trying to look interested as he and Jenn discussed the finer points of linoleum flooring. I was relatively happy. Nor did I have a single sentimental emotion coursing through my veins. Yet, for some reason, my eyes didn't know that.

I suspect they might have gone rogue, perhaps reminiscing about the days when they could devour a magazine without the aid of cheap reading glasses.

In any case, I kept my head down and hoped this went unnoticed. But, after our flooring guy left, I said to Jenn, "Boy, my eyes started watering up for no reason. Thank goodness no one noticed."

"Are you kidding?" she said. "It looked like you were crying."

I should have known.

I do not exactly have the world's smallest eyes. In fact, if a veterinary team ever needed to do an eye transplant on a lemur monkey, I'm pretty sure they would ask me to consider being a donor.

Essentially, I have six-foot-seven eyes in a five-foot-three body.

That's when it hit me. If Jenn thought I was crying, it was very likely that our floor guy did too.

This means I left him with the impression that I am one of those people – OK the only person – who gets sentimental about old linoleum floors.

And let's face it, this is a strange thing to get sentimental about.

Sure, that old linoleum washroom floor and I have been through a lot together. But I wouldn't say that I get choked up about the thought of it being replaced.

On the upside, he's a flooring guy, so maybe he can relate.

Still, this has me worried.

After all, this is a small town, and word gets out quick. I don't want to be known as the guy who gets too sentimental about old linoleum floors.

My buddy suggested that maybe my subconscious was thinking about how I dodged a bullet by hiring a professional to do the job.

Maybe, he said, I was leaking subconscious tears of joy.

When he said this, it brought tears to my eyes. At least that made sense. That guy only showers once a week.

pic *of the* past

This week's pic of the past was initally submitted to the *Echo* by Petra Boice Pequegnat who told the paper, "The man on the right is my father's brother, George Boice, born in 1875. On the left is Cecil Woodcock, my father's sister's son, orn in 1883. This photo was taken in the early 1900s. Cecil's mother died when he was born and he was raised by my grandparents, Isaac and Elizabeth Boice, who owned the red brick heritage house on Park Street. Cecil is the father of Conway, Maurice, Royce, Claude, Russell and Neil." No name was given for the dog in the photograph./FILE

letters to the editor

CPP and climate don't mix

To the Editor,

Re: "Pension Plans have fiduciary duty to combat climate crisis"

The above headline in *The Echo* contained two glaring errors, in my opinion.

The CPP's investment portfolio should not be judged for combating climate crisis when "the CPP is designed to provide a stable source of retirement income to Canadians today and over multiple generations," nor should climate change be referred to as a "crisis" when the more serious world crisis is the energy crisis created by climate policies which have led to a shortage of the fossil fuels which provide over 80 per cent of the world's energy.

Business publications (*Financial Post*, *Bloomberg*, *Yahoo Finance*) are reporting that the S&P ESG Index just had "its worst quarter in its roughly two-decade history," is "an investment strategy that has become too politicized to survive" and "Investors continued their flight from sustainable funds in 2023's fourth quarter," suggesting to me that the CPP should avoid this sector!

As for the "climate crisis", that is fear-mongering, especially in Canada where our CO2 emissions represent only 1.5 per cent of the world's total, and our impact on global emissions is negligible.

The world needs Canada's LNG to replace dirty coal in Asia and other developing regions to provide inexpensive and reliable energy. Wind and solar are not reliable, are expensive and, along with the batteries required to store their energy, are a looming environmental landfill disaster the size of which many conveniently choose to ignore discussing.

The climate is changing as we emerge from the "Little Ice Age" of 600 years ago, and it will continue to change for millennial to come. Investing in strong market performers will provide CPP with the returns necessary to fund the growing number of retirees in Canada, as well as provide capital for further investment in energy innovation.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
vivian@haliburtonpress.com

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

The junior girls' sprint relay team won fourth place at OFSAA in Lakefield on Thursday, Feb. 23. From left Olivia Gruppe, Violet Humphries, Sadie Kelly, and Ella Gervais. /Submitted

Grace Allder chases down a competitor in the Junior Girls five kilometre race.

Left, HHSS junior boys Nordic skiers pose for a photo at the end of the competition.

Hawks soar high at OFSAA Nordic championships

Violet Humphries earns bronze medal; Three Red Hawk relay sprint team finish top 5

The Red Hawk Nordic Ski team found huge success at the OFSAA Nordic Championships held at Lakefield College School February 22 and 23. The team nearly doubled in numbers this year, fielding 15 athletes up from eight last year.

Skiers were forced to contend with rapidly changing snow conditions and early starts each day, as race times were bumped up to 8 a.m. to avoid the warmest parts of the afternoon. Despite less than ideal ski conditions, Red Hawk athletes came home with fists full of ribbons, suntans and memories to last a lifetime.

In Thursday's interval distance races, Violet Humphries met her goal of a podium finish at OFSAA, skiing the 5 kilometre course under slick conditions to a bronze medal finish in the High School category. At the OFSAA level, skiers can compete in either the High School or Open Categories, with High School skiers competing and training exclusively with their school team and Open skiers training with a club and competing on the Ontario Cup circuit.

Teammate Olivia Gruppe followed up Humphries with a personal best ski and 15th place finish. Ella Gervais was 24th; Sadie Kelly 34th and Grace Allder 67th in a field of 114 High School trained skiers. This earned the Junior Girls team a fifth place finish overall, losing out to Sudbury's Lo Ellen Park by merely a single point. The team score is determined by the lowest total of the top four overall finishers from a school, and may be any combination of High School and Open (club) skiers.

OFSAA rules stipulate that skiers may participate in club programs up until the start of their first year of high school, and then must choose a pathway or wait at least one year before returning to the High School category. A lot of our skiers' success can be attributed to the strong foundations built in our local Jackrabbit program organized by volunteers and the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association. Many of our athletes continue to act as junior instructors in this program and spend their Saturday afternoons teaching the next generation of Nordic skiers.

In the highly competitive Junior Boys category, the Backus twins made their OFSAA Nordic debut, returning to the sport after several years. Graham Backus finished 14th, closely followed by brother Evan in 16th. Ninth-grade skier Winston Ramsdale finished 33rd; Brechin Johnston 47th; Owen Megrah-Poppe 61st and Carter McKnight-Sisco 80th. There were 122 skiers in the Junior Boys category. Johnston and Megrah-Poppe just donned cross-country skis for the first time ever this year and continue to make excellent progress in the sport. As a team, the Red Hawk Junior Boys finished ninth in the interval races, just one place short of taking home an OFSAA ribbon.

On the Senior Girls 7 kilometre course, Olivia Humphries skied to a strong 10th place finish; Erika Hoare was 14th; Hannah Sharp 44th and Teagan Hamilton 50th. Sharp and Hamilton are only in their second year of Nordic skiing, being new to the sport last year. This Senior Girls earned a sixth-place team finish and a burgundy OFSAA ribbon to bring home.

Friday's Sprint Relays held a lot of drama and intensity. The Junior Girls team of Olivia Gruppe, Sadie Kelly, Ella Gervais and Violet Humphries sought to avenge their single-point loss to Lo Ellen Park and sailed past them to a fourth-place Sprint Relay finish. The relay course featured a very steep and slanted uphill with a 90-degree turn at the top the announcer had dubbed "Heartbreak Hill," and our skiers eclipsed many competitors on this incline due to their training at Glebe Park.

The Junior Boys team of Evan and Graham Backus, Winston Ramsdale and Brechin Johnston, who fought hard to make it into the top-eight final in the tough Junior Boys category with 21 teams, excelled with their strength and grit in the slushy snow on the 900m loop to ski to a fifth-place finish after being seeded in ninth.

The Senior Girls team of Hannah Sharp, Teagan Hamilton, Erika Hoare and Olivia Humphries dug in with a photo finish at the line as Olivia Humphries battled to hang on to the lead created by teammate Erika Hoare who made several passes on the third leg of the relay. Humphries was able to hold off the Collingwood anchor and beat her to the line by a fraction of a second to secure fourth-place in a commendable team effort.

The Haliburton Highlands Nordic team stood strong against big skiing schools with many club skiers such as Huntsville, Collingwood, Glebe and Nepean in Ottawa and Sudbury's Lo Ellen Park and one was of few schools to field three teams in the Sprint Relay finals. Red Hawk coaches Karen Gervais, Mike Rieger, Erin Smith and community coaches Kevin Hoare and Joleen Thomas are extremely proud of the accomplishments of this team. Their success can also largely be attributed to their support of each other and the excellent work ethic, teamwork and dedication they have all shown in practice throughout the season.

A big thanks to Kevin Hoare and Joleen Thomas for their waxing knowledge and help readying skis for competition under widely variable snow conditions; and to Hoare for being the bus driver for the team to get them to competitions. Thanks to all the members of our community that have supported us through volunteering at our meet and the words of encouragement out on the trails and the groomers for always having the trails prepped for us to practice.

It truly does take a village and we are happy to see Haliburton back on the Nordic Skiing map. As OFSAA convenor Todd Harris said, "Haliburton is not only back, but back with a bang!"

Submitted by Karen Gervais

Volleyball victory

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School junior girls volleyball team brought home COSSA gold on Thursday, Feb. 22 after the championships held in Trenton. The team poses with coaches Janice Scheffee and Michelle Backus after the win. The team went undefeated against all other single A schools in their Kawartha league, and then undefeated at COSSA. /Submitted by Shannon Walker

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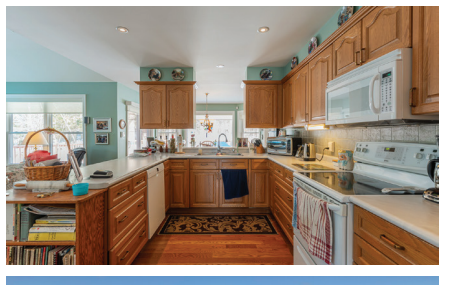

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Celebrating seniors

Graduating Huskies player Ian Philips stops for a photo with his family before Saturday's game against the Caledon Admirals at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The Huskies celebrated a sweet victory of 6-0, and went on to win the next day's game 2-0 against the North York Rangers. All graduating players and families were celebrated last week. / TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Huskies #23 Lucas Marshall scores first goal of the game at 1:17 in the first period.

Huskies forward Noah Lodoen races down the ice with the puck.

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CJR VS HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Saturday, Mar. 2 - 4 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

For more information please visit our website

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Canoe FM open house invites community to record

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

"It's about giving people the opportunity who thought, 'well, I'd really like to get recording' and they just don't know where to go," says Laurie Sweig, volunteer for Canoe FM.

The Canoe FM Radio Station had an Open House this weekend to highlight their new recording space.

For those interested in using the radio station's recording space, there will be a pre-recording meeting to establish expectations for your project and set up the proper equipment. Services include recording, editing, mixing, and mastering. Afterwards, an .mp3, .wav, or Logic will be provided. There is a minimum donation required of $20 per hour.

Canoe FM hosted a successful Open House event this weekend showcasing their recording studio's capabilities. The room was packed with volunteers and visitors abound /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Only original music recorded at the station will be available to play on the radio, as well as requested by the public.

All of the volunteers at Canoe FM are extremely passionate about music and have the training for their equipment to meet people's needs, says Roxanne Casey, Station Manager.

While they doubt Taylor Swift would make the trek to Haliburton, they are very open to her using the recording studio, says Casey and Sweig.

"Music is magic and it's great medicine. So the more that you're around it, I believe, the healthier you are," says Sweig, "it's hitting parts of your brain that otherwise don't get stimulated."

Many students comply with immunization record request

JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The public health campaign toward updated student vaccination records garnered much compliance.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit reminded parents and guardians of students that health records needed proof of current vaccinations to ensure uninterrupted class attendance.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health and the unit's CEO, told the board of health when it met Feb. 15 that a comparative handful of students remain without updated records after the first round of notices.

In January, there was indication that 1,357 Grade 3 and high school students in the region who were not up to date with their immunization records. Students that aren't sufficiently vaccinated are suspended from attending classes.

The first day of suspensions was Feb. 5 when there were just 442 students who didn't have updated immunization records.

That number shrunk further so that there are only 36 students without current vaccination records as of Feb. 15.

"This has been a tremendous amount of work among HKPR employees, among school boards, principals, and parents," Bocking said.

The next round of enforcement will include elementary school students, except Grade 3, in March with a suspension date in May.

"In these grades there tends to be fewer that are not up to date," Bocking said.

There is a booster vaccine required in Grade 3 before the student is seven years old.

Bocking said about 3,400 notices will be sent out in March. It's anticipated that numbers of non-compliance will be lower than the first round.

Municipality of Dysart et al
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Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

REQUEST FOR TENDERS
BRIDGE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Municipality of Dysart et al is requesting seeks proposals from qualified firms to conduct a Bridge Feasibility Study in order to replace the steel footbridge located in Head Lake Park.

A Mandatory site meeting will take place Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 10 AM EST.

Proposals must be received on or before 12 p.m. EST on Monday, March 11, 2024.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Specifications and Tender Forms can be obtained online at
https://dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca/

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NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- DATE: Wednesday, March 13th, 2024
- TIME: 11:00 am.
- LOCATION: The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2023-034 Hunter and Gottschalk

- The following variances are requested to permit a decreased lot frontage and lot area on a lot located in the RR-3 zone:

a) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a lot to have a minimum lot frontage of 56.5 metres (185.3 feet), as opposed to the required minimum of 60 metres (196.8 feet).

b) A variance to Section 5.2 to permit a lot to have a minimum lot area of 6283.5 square metres (1.55 acres) as opposed to the required minimum of 8000 square metres (1.977 acres).

- Location: Part Lot 18, Concession 9, Parts 5 and 6, Plan 19R5779 in the Geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
Roll No. 012-000-85914

- This application is a condition of application for consent H-001/24

2. D13-MV-2024-002 Beavis

- The following variances are requested to permit a decreased exterior side lot line setback, a decreased street setback for a two-storey garage/private cabin, which is located in the sight triangle and an increased lot coverage located on a lot in the WR4 zone:

a) A variance to section 3.1(d)(v) to permit a private cabin to have a minimum exterior side lot line setback of 1 metre (3.2 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 7.5 metres (24.6 feet).

b) A variance to section 3.1(e)(iv) to permit a two-storey accessory building to have a minimum exterior side lot line setback of 1 metre (3.2 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 7.5 metres (24.6 feet).

c) A variance to section 3.30 to permit a two-storey accessory building to have a minimum street setback of 12.4 metres (41 feet) from the centre of Jasmine Road, as opposed to the required minimum of 16.4 metres (54 feet) as granted by minor variance D13-MV-2022-010.

d) A variance to section 3.30 to permit a private cabin to have a minimum street setback of 12.4 metres (41 feet) from the centre of Jasmine Road, as opposed to the required minimum of 17.5 metres (57.4 feet).

e) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a maximum lot coverage to be 15.2% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

f) A variance to Section 3.27(a)(i) to permit a structure to be located within a sight triangle.

- Location: Part Lot 26, Concession 11, Lot 109, Plan 500, in the Geographic Township of Harcourt, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
Roll No. 030-000-71500

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

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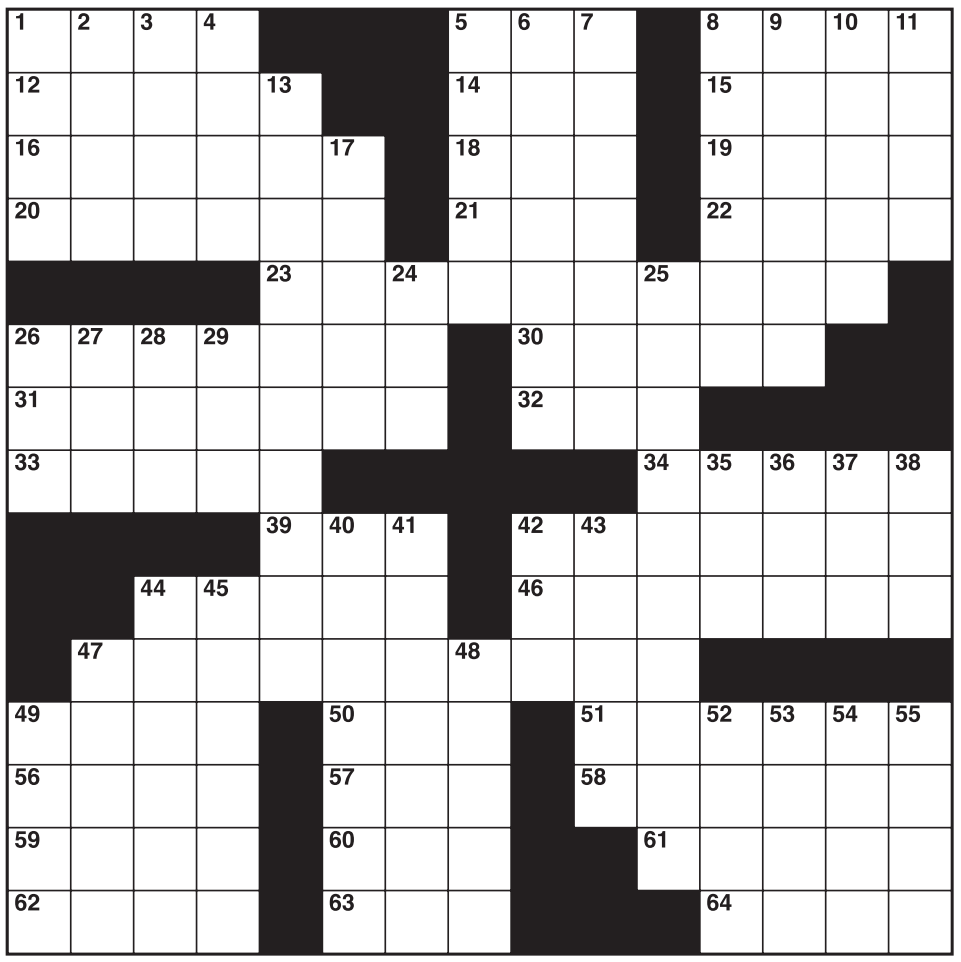

CLUES ACROSS
1. Home of Iowa State University
5. __-fi (slang)
8. Mottled green and yellow fruit
12. Capable of thinking and expressing oneself clearly
14. Sports broadcaster Eagle
15. Midday
16. Kinsmen
18. Cable network
19. Simpleton
20. Brunch beverage
21. Fed
22. European capital
23. Native inhabitants
26. Mechanical device
30. Rare geese native to Hawaii
31. Bedroom furnishing
32. The products of human creativity
33. Mass transit option
34. Made a mistake
39. Sacred sound symbol
42. Large N. American reindeer
44. Dull and flat
46. Partner to huffing
47. Written works
49. Monetary unit of Serbia
50. Midway between east and southeast
51. Peninsula of southwestern Asia
56. Widely used multiuser OS
57. Aggressive dog
58. Varnished
59. Hindu queen
60. Time units, abbr.
61. Farm animals
62. Capital of Latvia
63. Where golfers begin
64. Takes to civil court

CLUES DOWN
1. One who graduated
2. An inspired holy person
3. Electronic counter-countermeasures
4. A place to store things
5. Indian instrument
6. Spanish saloon
7. Whole number
8. Not fastened
9. Gives a boost
10. Lounges about
11. Interested in
13. Remove salt
17. Type of sword
24. Naturally occurring solid material
25. Gets involved without being invited
26. Feline
27. Bobby __, NHL champ
28. ÒKill BillÓ actress Thurman
29. Hawaiian dish
35. Moroccan coastal region
36. Baseball statistic
37. Long period of time
38. Moved earth
40. Central Netherlands city
41. Take stock of
42. Central processing unit
43. Distinctive qualities one generates
44. Getting stuck
45. Loss of bodily movements
47. Veranda
48. Abrupt
49. What cats do
52. Expresses pleasure
53. Type of cheese
54. Professional STEM organization
55. Automatic data processing systems

Answers on page 13

A rose by any other name...

Above, Sadie Evans-Fockler performs in Rmeo + Julez during Ctrl-ART-del's A Valentine's Cabaret on Friday, Feb. 23 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The Cabaret featured eight one-act plays performed by local talent for an eclectic mix of comedy and drama. /Photos submitted

Romeo, played by Keith Bailey McLeod, chats on the phone to Juliet during A Valentine's Cabaret.

Nicholls competes at Nationals

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754–2278

With sadness and deep sympathy for the Bob and Marg Barry family we report the death of Diane Thomas, wife of Bud Thomas. Diane being Marg and Bob's oldest and sister of Norm Barry, and of Nelda Cully and Pat Hicks. Her passing occurred on February 1 in Haliburton Hospital. She leaves children Donna, Debbie and Garwood.

Curling action from this area featured Owen Nicholls, son of Erin Nicholls and Breanna Elder, as his team competed in Ottawa at the National Curling Championship. Somewhat further removed, but Paul Madden's daughter Jenny curled at the Ontario Women's Curling Championship. Jenny had to step up to skip position due to the skip's hip problems. This team will be competing later in February at the provincial level. News of this comes from Jenny's grandmother, Louise Cooper.

From Greg and Cheryl Cooper we hear of their daughter Nicole's son Luca, another young hockey player for that family. The drop-in centre last Sunday saw entertainment for the birthday of Marion, six years old on Valentine's Day, daughter of Kevin and Jenn, also great-granddaughter of Lloyd and Marion Barry.

Carl Dixon has been giving his shows. Recently in Picton and Guelph areas, and at present he's presenting in Winnipeg. His wife Helen attended a world wide TV conference, Kidscreen Summit, last weekend in San Diego to showcase in advance of her upcoming videos, along with others who have developed their own children's videos.

Two happy memories of Ingoldsby United Church occur to me. In 1957 or '58 the Reverend David McGuire, then priest at St. Andrew's Anglican at West Guilford, performed on the new organ to the delight of Earl, me and several of the chorus known as The Madrigals. Later in the same year Mrs Finney's "Madrigals" sang in that welcoming church for the congregation. Oh the pleasure of those happy choir days!

A perfectly joyous occasion happened on February 14 at the home of Paul Rolfe and his mother, Pam whose birthday celebrated her 92 years. Many friends and neighbours came to bring gifts of flowers, decorate, and serve the lunch so attractively displayed. Some of the guests were from Pam's earlier days in Guilford when she worked at what was known then as Carnarvon Lumber, some relatively new to the area, some from the Women's Institute, but all very much beloved by Pam who enjoyed the day to the full.

Balancing act

Britta Ritchie carefully balances hot chocolate while skiing around the track at the Jack Rabbit Nordic Skiing Fun Day on Saturday at Glebe Park in Haliburton. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Skiers make their way around a circle of pilons for a version of "music chairs". When told go, they were to ski into the centre of the circle to grab the correct disk colour.

Charlotte Gage found a tutu to wear while participating in the dress-up relay race.

Above, Volunteer Ella Gervais balances two full cups of hot chocolate while skiing.

Left, Simon Lee concentrates on throwing his disk to knock down bowling pins at the Jack Rabbit fun day.

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REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Supply of One (1) 1-Ton Truck

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking qualified Bidders to supply one (1) one ton pickup truck.

Tenders must be received on or before 11 a.m. EST on Friday, March 15, 2024.

Specifications and Tender Forms can be obtained online at https://dysartetal.bidsandtenders.ca/

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	E	U	S	■	■	■	E	E	T	■	A	G	I	R
P	E	E	H	S	■	■	S	R	H	■	I	N	A	R
D	E	L	A	E	S	■	R	U	C	■	X	I	N	U
A	I	B	A	R	A	■	E	S	E	■	A	R	A	P
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N	O	O	N	■	N	A	I	■	■	D	I	C	U	L
I	L	G	U	■	I	C	S	■	■	■	S	E	M	A

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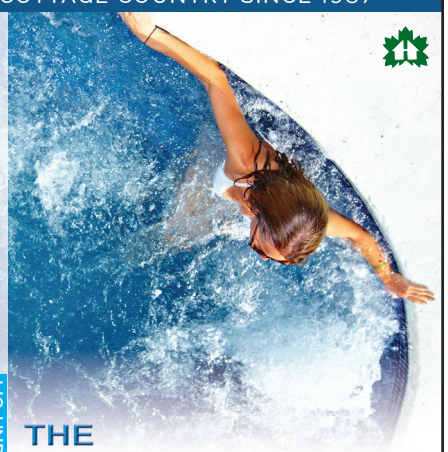

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540 COMING EVENTS

Lenten Lunches Wednesdays
Feb. 28 - Minden Bible Church at St. Paul's Anglican,
March 6 - St. Paul's Anglican,
March 13 - Our Lady of the Fatima Catholic Church,
March 20 - Highland Hills United Church. **Services at noon,** followed by Soup Lunch, by donation.

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520 THANK YOU

I wish to thank the many well-wishers upon my retirement from the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Whether in person or in messages, I am honoured by your kindness. A special thanks to the municipality of Dysart staff for the surprise farewell party and gifts. Thanks, as well, to Canoe Radio the Haliburton County Echo, and the Highlander for their interviews. Most of all, a sincere thanks to the people of Haliburton. You are a wonderful community. My interest in local history remains. Thank you to everybody. Stephen Hill

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650 OBITUARIES

Mary May Harnden (Nee Saunders)

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Mary passed surrounded by the love of her family at Northumberland Hills Hospital at 88 years of age. Mary was born to Albert and Ethel Saunders and raised on the family farm in Wilberforce. After raising her family in Cobourg, Mary returned to her roots up north where she continued to develop her many talents. Over the last several years, Mary enjoyed the friendships formed within her apartment community in Cobourg. Always up for a project, she transformed a strip of land into a garden filled with colourful plantings. Mary will be forever missed by her children, Janet (Fred Swanson), Joanne McCullough (Tom Corneil) and Mark (Nancy Hompus). She was blessed with her grandchildren, Jesse Campbell (Dan), Ben Harnden (Stacey) and Matthew McCullough along with her great grandchildren Madelyn and Cole Harnden. Mary is now reunited with her brother Jim Saunders (deceased 2019) and is survived by her sister-in-law Mina Saunders and their children. Special thanks to Dr. Al-Ali and the intensive and palliative care departments of NHH for her care.

Visitation & Funeral Service

In keeping with Mary's wishes a Funeral Service will take place on Saturday morning, May 4, 2024 at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior) at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209. A reception will follow in The Community Room. Interment South Wilberforce Cemetery. For those wishing to join the family virtually please follow the enclosed link. https://join.skype.com/m57em6troWu4 As an expression of sympathy, donations may be made to a charity of your choice and would be appreciated by the family.

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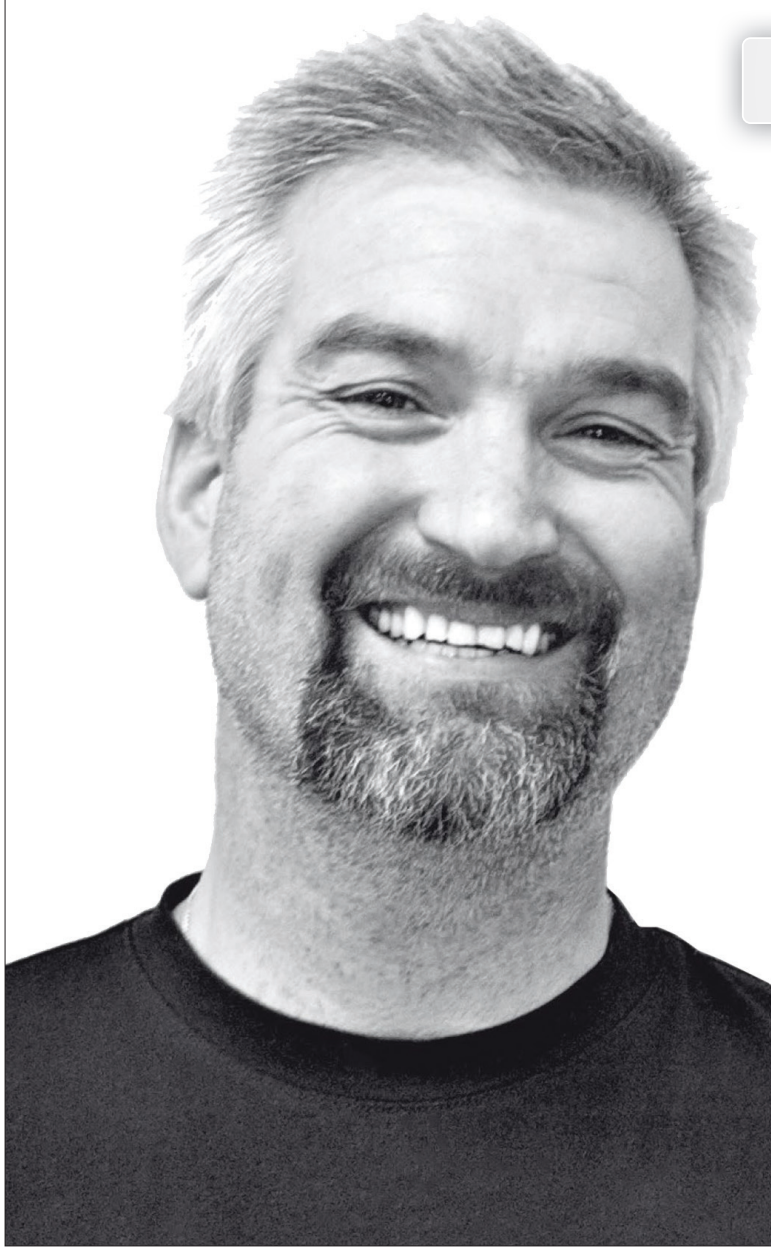

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

HAIRSTYLIST DIES
Haliburton was shocked when Annie Cochrane was found dead at her salon

ELK OR HORSE?
A young elk which has made himself at home with horses causes quite a stir

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Tuesday, February 25, 2003
Vol. 120 No .12
$1 including GST

Details scarce on 121 project

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

The local grapevine is a little heavier this week, loaded with rumours about what could be going into a proposed new commercial building on Highway 121 near Country Rose.

The developers, however, have refused to comment to the press.

Pat Martin, Dysart et al planner explained she could not release the telephone number for the Otis Development group that is behind the proposal. She says they instead asked her to relate to the press that they will address questions at a March 2 public meeting. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. in the Dysart council chambers.

Re/Max in Haliburton is representing the group but the two agents involved have not been available to return phone calls from *The Echo*.

Ray Langdon, owner of Home Hardware in Haliburton, says he was approached about moving into one of three proposed units in a 64,000 square foot proposed building.

He says they did not have any information from an engineer to explain how it was all going to be done. He wanted that information considering the steep grade of the property.

He added he also needed to know more information about costs before saying whether he was even interested.

Langdon says it his understanding the developers are going after a major retailer to take up the space.

DARREN LUM/Echo

Hooked on fishing
Six-year-old Braydon Frost checks his line for a fish out on Head Lake on Friday, Feb. 22. Haliburton resident Braydon was ice fishing for the first time with father Bill and family friend, Jeff Cattell. Despite a yearning for grilled chicken, Braydon still looks forward to the next outing.

Haliburton resident to head fish and wildlife group

STEVE GALEA
Special to The Echo

When Pat Kennedy received a call from the Premier's office to attend the 75th Annual Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' (O.F.A.H) Conference in Hamilton last weekend, he had suspicions that something big was afoot.

But when Premier Ernie Eves, himself, appointed the Haliburton man as the first Executive Director of the new Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission at Saturday night's formal dinner, Kennedy admitted he was both surprised and honoured.

The Commission, which was created by last year's Hunting and Fishing Heritage Act, will have advisory powers to the Minister of Natural Resources as well as other responsibilities that are yet to be announced. As of now, Kennedy has few details about the form and authority of the new Commission.

Kennedy said, "When I heard the announcement, I was both elated and just a bit scared. It's going to be an awesome responsibility and a big lifestyle change… I'm hoping that I live up to the expectations and faith that people have in me."

As a full-time Executive-Director, Kennedy's first task will be to help organize the Commission as additional members are appointed.

Kennedy was a well-known and popular member of the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board, which will be dissolved once

See **Kennedy** *page 6*

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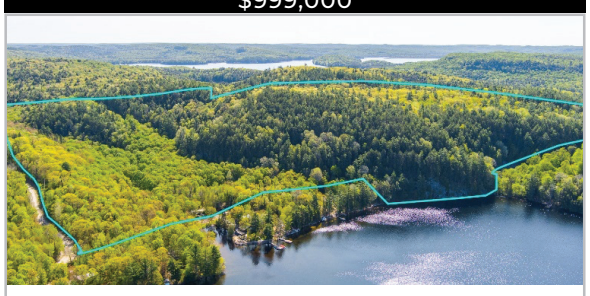

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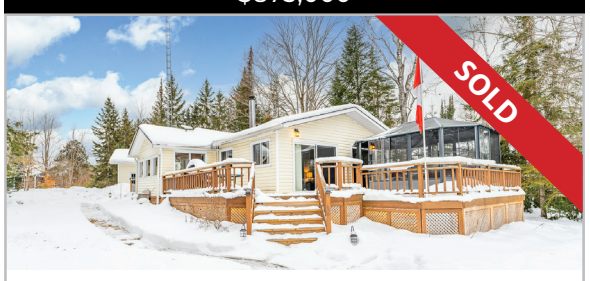

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